schemes encourage the participation of NGOs/VAs to supplement governmental efforts.

The National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) has recently initiated the review of National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), which has become due for review. The University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), have been set up as statutory bodies to ensure proper maintenance of norms and standards in Higher Education, Technical and Management Education and Teacher Education, respectively.

The Government has reconstituted the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and, seven CABE Committees have been set up on the subjects of (i) Free and Compulsory Education Bill and other issues related to Elementary Education; (ii) Girls Education and the Common School System; (iii) Universalisation of Secondary Education; (iv) Autonomy of Higher Education Institutions; (v) Integration of Culture Education in the School Curriculum; (vi) Regulatory Mechanism for the Text Books and parallel text taught in schools outside the Government System; and (vii) Financing of Higher and Technical Education.

'Infant Maternal Mortality Rate

3292. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the infant and maternal mortality rate in the world including India and China as per the latest report;

(b) the percentage of under-nourished children in the world including India and China;

(c) what is the improvement in IMR, MMR and percentage of Under-nourished children in the country after introduction of mid-day-meal schemes with specific data; and

(d) Government's plan to attain optimum improvement in the matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per the state of the world's children 2005 an yearly report of UNICEF the infant mortality rate

(under one year) of India is 63 per thousand live births and 30 per thousand live births in respect of China and maternal mortality rate for India is 540 per 100000 live births and 50 per 100000 live births in respect of China. The report is available at website of UNICEF.

(b) As per report referred in (a) above the percentage of infants with low birth weight in India is 30 and 6 in respect of China.

(c) and (d) The infant mortality rate has been reduced from 84 per thousand live births in 1992-93 (NFHS-I) to 68 per thousand live births in 1998-99 (NFHS-II) and maternal mortality rate has been reduced from 437 per 100000 live births in 1992-93 (NFHS-I) to 407 per 100000 live births in 1998 (SRS1998). The percentage of underweight children has been reduced from 53.4 in 1992-93 (NFHS-I) to47 in 1998-99 (NFHS-II). Efforts are beind made by the government to improve the overall status of children in the country through several interventions in the field of health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, protection from exploitation etc.

Private Universities

†3293. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private universities operating in the country;

(b) whether UGC provisions are applicable on such universities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As on the 31st March, 2005, seven private universities have been established by different State Legislatures in terms of Section 2 (f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) The incorporation, regulations and winding up of universities in within the competence of the State Legislatures. However, in order to maintain standards of higher education, the UGC (Establishment of Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003, were issued on 27th December, 2003 and are in force.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.